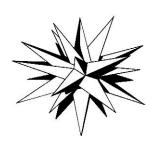
A Publication of East Hills Moravian Church

1830 Butztown Road Bethlehem, PA 18017 610-868-6481

The Star



Volume 64, No. 11 December 2021



A Word from Pastor Linda Wisser

With the start of the Advent season here at East Hills, comes the question, "What Time Is It?". In terms of the church year, Advent is time when the liturgical year begins. It is a holy season that differs from any other time of year. And here at the church, there are all kinds of signs that show us



that this is a holy season. The putz is constructed, the greens are hung, the Lovefeast is shared, and we do these kinds of things to signify that something special is happening. This is no longer "ordinary time" in the church. It's Advent time!

My encouragement for us this season is to make it a holy one...holy meaning, set apart for God. Do something different that makes your heart and mind alert to this new season and the ways that God shows up in our midst. It is tempting to live caught up in routines and daily rituals. We are often creatures of habit. So, wonder with me, how might we become more deliberate in setting these weeks leading up to Christmas apart? How might we order our days and these weeks a little differently? It's important, otherwise we risk being lulled into a slumbering of spirit that comes from going through the motions... and we might miss something significant, just as many missed the coming of Christ so long ago.

This newsletter provides lots of ways for us to be involved in the life of the church and a witness of good news in the world. Come and be a part of our informal Advent studies, join us for worship on Sunday mornings, try serving or learning or worshipping in a way that is new to you and be open to the ways that God is present in our midst!

Advent blessings, Pastor Linda

pastorlinda@easthillsmc.org 484-764-8629

All you children of God, rejoice and be glad because a Saviour has come to earth. The greatest miracle of all time has taken place. The child of God has come to earth in human form. He has been born not in a castle or in a palace, but in a poor man's stable. How humble our God is and so great is his love! Merry Christmas to you.







Worship Information & Opportunities



Come join us for worship every Sunday at 10:30! In person, on ZOOM, or on YouTube.



The church office is open Monday - Thursday from 9:00 - 3:00.

610-868-6481 office@easthillsmc.org

Please note that no one is checking voicemail or email outside of office hours. If there is an emergency, please contact Pastor Linda at 484-764-8629.

The office will be closed on Monday Dec. 27th for Christmas.



ZOOM link -- Dial-in by phone -- YouTube recordings

Weekly Worship will be available live on ZOOM **Sunday mornings at 10:30.** You may also dial in by phone or check YouTube for pre-recorded services and sermons each week.

Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83858077423?pwd=UFIBRDI3cG5jTHNNaGNtakhnU05vdz09

Meeting ID: 838-5807-7423

Password: 175584

YouTube Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oF67kjDFPgY

Dial-in by phone: For anyone without a computer, tablet, or smartphone, wishing to join the Church Service may do the following. This will be the audio only for landlines and cellphones.

- 1. Call 1-929-205-6099 (New York other cities available on request)
- 2. At the prompt for the Meeting ID enter 838-5807-7423 followed by #
- 3. At the prompt for your Participant ID enter #
- 4. At the prompt for the Password enter 175584 followed by #

Christian Learning Opportunities



EHMC Sunday Morning Coffee Class - EHMC is inviting you join us via ZOOM. Please use the URL below to join the meeting with your computer, tablet or phone with a microphone and webcam. If you need to download the app, please approve it and join the meeting with computer audio.

Every week on Sun. at 9:30 AM ET in person in Fellowship Hall or on Zoom. Zoom Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83108556340?pwd=aXNBVIItalp1ZjZtWFgvckVvaFJYUT09

Meeting ID: 831 0855 6340

Passcode: 094254

Dial in for audio only: +1 929 205 6099

Dial-in by phone: For anyone without a computer, tablet, or smartphone, wishing to join the Church Service may do the following. This will be the audio only for landlines and cellphones.

- 1. Call 1-929-205-6099 (New York other cities available on request)
- 2. At the prompt for the Meeting ID enter 831 0855 6340 followed by #
- 3. At the prompt for your Participant ID enter #
- 4. At the prompt for the Password enter 094254 followed by #



Greetings, Sunday School families!

All children and youth are invited to join us in the Family Center at 9:30 December 5th.

Our focus:

Jesus is...

Jesus does...

Jesus promises...

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study!

Please join us on **Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Church Lounge.** We will begin with looking into the unique Gospel of John. We hope to see you there!



Additional Christian Fellowship News & Opportunities



EHMC PUTZ

For questions or more information, call the church office.

Open to the public:

November 28th - December 22nd
Wednesdays & Fridays
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Saturdays & Sundays
3:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Closed Christmas Eve/Christmas Day
3 versions: Adult, Child, & Spanish

Handicapped accessible Groups by appointment

You are invited to come and enjoy a viewing of the putz prior to the Concord Chamber Singers concert on December 10th; it will be open starting at 5:30 p.m. and also before and after the concert on Sunday, the 12th beginning at 2 p.m. and open until 8 p.m.

There is no admittance fee, but donations are accepted.



<u>Prayer Requests:</u> Have a prayer request? Please email the "Detail Form" to the church office at <u>office@easthillsmc.org</u>. Only first names will be mentioned during worship since the YouTube broadcast is literally available to the world.



<u>For Pastoral Care:</u> Contact Pastor Linda via email at pastorlinda@easthillsmc.org, via phone or text message at 484-764-8629.

Definitions & Conversations: What is systemic racism? What is the religious concern over Critical Race Theory? What does whiteness mean and is it biblically supported? These are very juicy, temperature-raising questions that youmay have already addressed in your circle of frieds and family, but now we are invited to address these questions as followers of Jesus of Nazareth. How can we talk about these matters in ways that hold us accountable to Jesus' teachings and allow us to both listen and speak truth? Dr. Tim Berry will guide us in some very intentional ways of talking about race. We will be offered an overview of a protocol called: Courageous Conversations. We will also be given some working definitions of words and concepts surrounding race. We will examine these definitions alongside our faith in Jesus as iyr Teacher and Savior. This is a faith-based learning opportunity open to the greater church and the community. Please feel free to invite those you feel may be interested. **Monday, Dec 6**th **at 6:30 PM via ZOOM.**

To make reservations, please email pastor Amy at <u>pastoramy@waconiamoravian.org</u>. The ZOOM link will be shared via email.



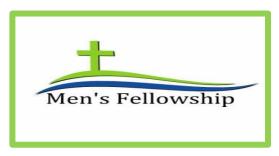
Online Giving: Please visit our website for online giving at http://www.easthillsmc.org/online-giving/. You can donate using your checking or savings account, debit card from your financial institution, or Visa, Mastercard, Discover, or American Express credit card. If you're donating for the first time, you'll be asked to set up a profile with your email address and financial information. Then you can schedule a one-time donation or weekly or monthly recurring donation. Your financial information is completely secure.

<u>Mailing donations:</u> You may also send pledges to the office at the church. The mail is being checked daily so that no money or checks are sitting in the mailbox for long. 1830 Butztown Rd., Bethlehem, 18017

Women's Fellowship meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. The link can be found in the weekly email announcements. This "school year" we are using a study guide written my The Rev. Sam Grey entitled "Fruitful Live: Fruit-filled stories of Moravian Women." All women are invited to join us. For further information, call the office.

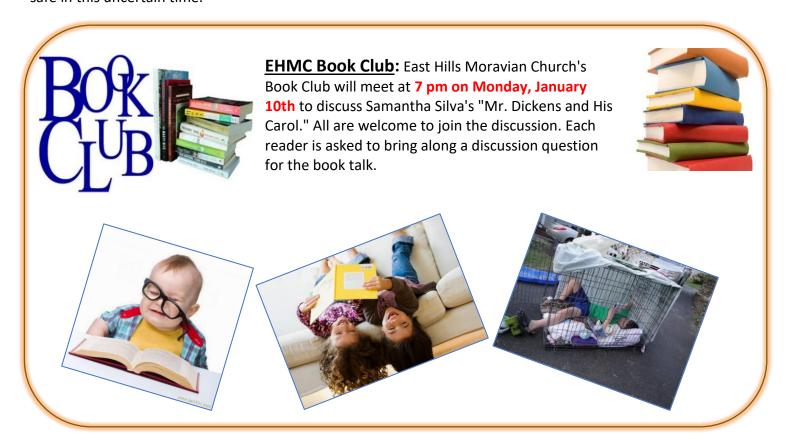






Men's Fellowship: As we continue to open areas of the church and our lives, the Men's Fellowship Group wants to let you know we are still here. Many of our fundraising events were canceled and we had to scale back our donations to causes that we earmarked funds for. Men's Fellowship is available to assist members whenever possible. We have an email chain setup so that if a member needs some sort of assistance, an email can be sent out looking for the

proper assistance. For example, if a member becomes ill and needs some temporary jobs/outside chores completed he/she can let one of us know and we can try to find a volunteer to help accommodate that need. As of now, social distance and safety guidelines need to be met to safeguard each of us. If you need anything feel free to reach out to the church office. We will try to assist you as best as we can. We hope you all stay safe in this uncertain time.





Pick an Angel 2021

Thank you for picking an Angel for this Christmas. Please remember to return your wrapped gifts to the box next to the tree by December 5th and cross off your name. Make sure to attach the angel card or a gift tag. Merry Christmas!



<u>Cash Cards</u> - Plan now for Christmas. <u>ShopWithScrip.com</u> has cash cards for moms, dads, and grads. And for you too! When you purchase physical cards or e-cards at face value, EHMC receives a percentage of that purchase. Consider retailers such as 1-800-FLOWERS, Shutterfly, eBay, Wayfair, Target, Walmart, L.L.Bean, Dick's Sporting Goods, Xbox, Sony PlayStation, Hulu, Uber, UberEATS, Instacart, or over 750 others for giving or your own shopping. Use enrollment code 8897CBD34973 to create an account at ShopWithScrip.com or on the RaiseRight app or contact the office. Cards for Giant, Wegmans, and Valley Farm are available.





YOU ARE INVITED -

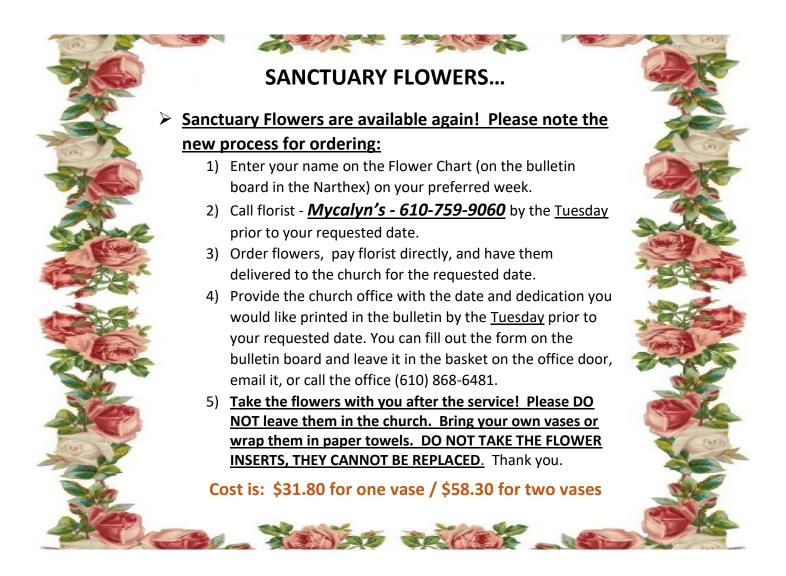
Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering and BAM Freezer Ministry have teamed up to host a Kiosk in downtown Bethlehem this Christmas season to educate and bring awareness of each to the community. Come out and join us!

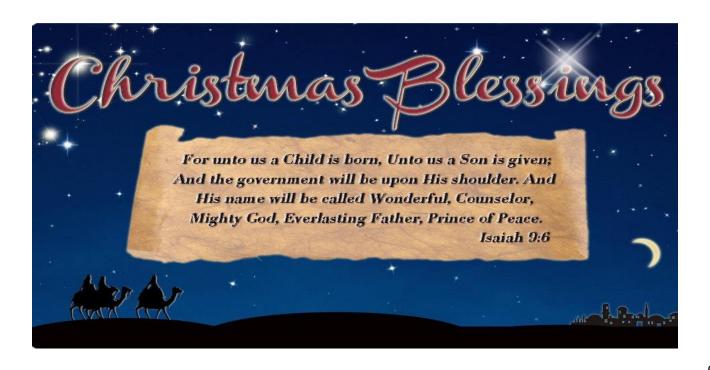
We will be in Hut #4, closest to Central Moravian Church. Hours are from 4:30 – 7:30 pm on Thur., Fri., and Sat.

Dec. 2, 3, 4, Dec. 9, 10, 11 Dec. 16, 17, 18

Each night there will be musical performers from 5:30-6:30 with one exception. The Bel Canto Bach Youth Choir will be from 5:15-6:15 on Fri. Dec. 3. Complimentary coffee and hot chocolate will be provided.

Note - East Hills Choir and Eugene McDuffie of Jesus Saves will be the music on Sat. Dec. 4 and Ginger Brew and Joe Mixon are on Thus. Dec. 16.







East Hills Moravian Church Contextual Outreach UPDATES:



Dear Friends,

Hopefully by now you may have heard about our congregation's renewed desire to get to know our neighbors. One of the ways we are doing this is by making acquaintances with the families who walk past our building after school. In November, we distributed "Thanksgiving Surprise Bags" to the children on their last day of school before Thanksgiving break. Thanks to the team who provided coloring sheets, stickers, a children's craft template and Skittles, and to those who greeted families that day.

We will be back at it again in December... assembling treats for the kids along with an invitation to Children's Christmas Eve Lovefeast. If you want to be part of this ministry of welcome and hospitality, please call the office or speak to Pastor Linda.



JESUS SAVES MINISTRY HAS MULTIPLIED

How good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in Unity. Praise God!

"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!"

We are excited to report the Elders of East Hills Moravian church and Jesus Save Ministry members had a fellowship dinner together. It was awesome for

us to fellowship together in unity. Many of Jesus Save Ministry members come from diverse backgrounds and cultures.

We want to praise God for the three new families that came to fellowship with us at Jesus Saves Ministry and gave their heart to Jesus Christ. We give God praise because the 3 families are also in bible class. God is doing abundantly above all that we could ask or think. Jesus Saves Ministry is experiencing a revival. The broken and lost are being welcomed, restored, and embraced with Love.

Nothing is Impossible for God, and Nothing is too difficult for God.

Jesus Saves Ministry gives God all Praises and Glory! Only He is worthy of our praises. Only He is the God who hears our prayers. Only He is the God who is Sovereign and mighty to SAVE and answer our prayers in perfect love and perfect wisdom.

I thank you all, East Hills Moravian Church Board, Trustees, Elders and Pastor Linda for your love, prayers, and support. They are much appreciated. Your prayers have blessed us all at Jesus Saves Ministry in more ways than I can say here.

People are giving their lives to Jesus! Hallelujah! Glory to God!

Jesus Saves Ministry Evangelism Outreach Eugene McDuffie

HOPE ANNUAL MORAVIAN CHRISTMAS





Second Weekend in December 2021

- VILLAGE OF HOPE-



SATURDAY ONLY ACTIVITIES December 11, 2021

Lantern Walking Tours 4 - 6:00pm

> 1,500 Luminaries Live Nativity

> > Food

Moravian Candlelight Service 7:30pm St. John's Methodist Church





SATURDAY 3-7:00pm & SUNDAY 1-4pm December 11 & 12, 2021

Festival of Trees Inn at Millrace Pond

Moravian Putz Replica of Nativity Story 337 High Street





Walking Tour: \$20 Reservations per person & \$25 on Day of Event Contact Ann Rhinesmith: grandma.9@hotmail.com 908-459-4918

All CDC and local health guidelines will be followed



www.HOPENJHISTORY.com



More from Camp Hope: Additional thanks and information from Camp Hope's Rev. Jodie Harney and Director, Suzanne Curtis:

Even though camps and conferences were cancelled amid health concerns, we were grateful to be open for a few outdoor-only events as well as nice weekends of Family Cabin Rentals – seven in the summer and two in the fall where members of the same household were able to enjoy many typical summer camp activities.

The camp has been busy with many projects as well:

- Fixing a frozen and burst pipe that led to water damage and mold
- Mold damage in the basement of Hassler Hall
- Water and mold damage in the Weekly Staff Lounge, Craft Room, and a storage closet
- Mold on bathroom ceiling in cabin G3
- Mold under the carpet of cabin B2
- Replacing subfloor and patching tile in bathroom of cabin B3
- To prevent mold growth in the remaining cabins, we've been replacing the carpeting with vinyl flooring as well as installing dehumidifiers in all eight cabins.

We appreciate the generous donations we have received for the mold remediation. Unfortunately, additional funds will be needed to restore new ceilings, walls, flooring and furniture to make the rooms usable again. With your support, we can get the buildings healthy and ready to welcome campers as soon as it is safe to do so

You can help by sending a check to: Camp Hope, 15 Ridgeway Ave., Blairstown, NJ 07825 or calling the office to set up on-line giving: 908-459-4435.

Thank you for your support!

Christian Sympathy and Resurrection Hope



Our prayers are with the families of:

Sister **Angelina Serratore**, who entered the more near presence of our Lord on October 31, 2021. Angelina is the daughter of Emily Dawley and Anthony Serratore and great-granddaughter of Marian Minyard.

Sister **Rose Neith**, who entered the more near presence of our Lord on Friday, November 19, 2021. Rose worshipped regularly with East Hills and served with the funeral luncheon ministry until her relocation to Arizona to be closer to her daughter, Mary and son, Jeffrey.

Kenneth Bartholomew, who is the brother of sister Bonnie Bartholomew. Ken passed into the more near presence of our Lord on Wednesday, November 24, 2021.

EHMC Support Team for December





** For EOD, go to Sign-up Genius @ EHMC: Elder on Duty (signupgenius.com) to add yourself.

	5-Dec	12-Dec	19-Dec	24-Dec Christmas Eve	26-Dec
Sacristans/ Color					
Elders					
Liturgist in person					
Liturgist online					
Ushers					
Counters					





What's Happening This Month at EHMC:

DECEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	9:30 am - Advent Series - Kitchen	2	3	4 UNITY PRAYER DAY
9:30 Sunday Morning Coffee Class 9:30 Children's Sunday School in FC 9:30 Adult Bible Study in Parlor 10:30 Worship, Holy Communion Fall Church Council Meeting 6:30-8 pm Confirmation Class FC	7:00 pm Advent Series - ZOOM	7 PM Women's Fellowship 5-6:30 PM Jesus Saves Parlor	9:30 am - Advent Series - Kitchen	9	10	11
9:30 Sunday Morning Coffee Class 9:30 Adult Bible Study in Parlor 10:30 Worship	7:00 pm Advent Series - ZOOM	5-6:30 PM Jesus Saves Parlor 7:00 Worship & Music Com	9:30 am - Advent Series - Kitchen	6:00 pm Trustees	17	18
9:30 Sunday Morning Coffee Class 9:30 Adult Bible Study in Parlor 10:30 Worship	7:00 pm Advent Series - ZOOM	5-6:30 PM Jesus Saves Parlor 7:00 Elders	9:30 am - Advent Series - Kitchen 7:00 – Why Knots	23	24 Christmas Eve 4:00 7:30	25 Christmas
9:30 Sunday Morning Coffee Class 9:30 Adult Bible Study in Parlor 10:30 Worship	27 Office closed	28 5-6:30 PM Jesus Saves Parlor	29	30	31	1





A Can A Week and Joyful Noise – Both of these important ministries continue to provide much-needed support for the foodbank at the Northeast Community Center. Your monetary donations can be sent to the church office or placed in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary, properly marked "Joyful Noise." Collection bins for A Can A Week remain in the Narthex. Please watch the weekly announcements and the EHMC Facebook page for updates regarding the most needed items.



Northeast Community Center: The Northeast Community Center celebrated 40 years of service to the Marvine/Pembroke area in July, and several of our church family members were present at their special event. Our dedicated EMHC volunteers continue to provide regular support to the Foodbank at NECC, participating in the purchase, delivery, organization, and distribution of

food. We also recently provided a variety of personal care items, including diapers, as well as snack foods and chicken. Thanks for the green beans that have already been donated for the Thanksgiving baskets. At this time, chicken noodle soup, toothpaste, wipes and size 3, 4 and 5 diapers are the most-needed items, and you may place your donations in the collection baskets in the Narthex. Grocery bags, both paper and plastic, are always appreciated.

There is always a need for Food Pantry volunteers - email Paula Johnson at johnson@neccbethlehem.org!



<u>Drive-By Food Pantry at Central Moravian Church</u> with much needed items for our next food distribution. The drive by is located in Central Moravian Christian Ed parking lot, access road between Kemmerer Museum & God's Acre (follow signs) from 9:30 am - 1:00 PM December 5th. Items needed: Sugar, flour, white rice (1 or 2 lb bags), canned soup, meals in a can (such as spaghetti and meat balls, chunky soup, shelf stable milk (family size), evaporated milk, any kind of boxed baking items (such as cakes, brownies, etc.) mustard, ketchup, tomato paste. We could also use hand can openers.

We are asking that donations come in paper bags (doubled) or cardboard boxes. Those can be recycled or repurposed. We will accept donations in any form, but believe plastic is not the best for our environment.

Plastic Challenge Update - BAM Churches - 2021

TREX information

Can you believe it? East Hills has already reached its goal of 500 pounds of recycled plastics with the help of our BAM partner churches. Look forward in the coming months to the second bench on our campus!

The Trex company has posted a clear graphic of recyclable materials on their website, along with a FAQ to answer some of your recycling questions. Check it out:

https://recycle.trex.com/view/educate#materials1



Please continue to be vigilant to recycle only acceptable materials.

Your recyclables can be dropped off during normal Church Office hours and Sundays, before and after worship.

Keep Recycling!

ACCEPTABLE PLASTICS

Plastic shopping bags
Produce and bread bags

Grocery bags
Cereal box liners

Ice bags

Wood pellet bags

Salt bags

Ziplock and other re-closable bags

Case overwrap

Newspaper sleeves

Dry cleaning bags

Bubble wrap & air pillows

Pallet wrap and stretch film

NOT ACCEPTABLE PLASTICS

Plastic bottles or other rigid plastic containers

Degradable/compostable bags

Pre-washed salad mix bags

Frozen food bags

Candy wrappers

Any Chip bags

Dried fruit and nut bags

Six-pack plastic rings

Pouch packaging

Cheese wrappers

Zip lock bags

Saran Wrap

Bread wrappers with little air holes

Cellophane wrappers

Bird seed or other bulk bags that are not #4

If material does not stretch easily or is shiny & crinkles or crunches

^{**} All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue. **

Serious and Silly Celebrations This Month

Dec. 5th – International Volunteer Day



<u>Dec. 7th – Pearl Harbor</u> Remembrance



Dec. 13th – National Cocoa Day



Dec. 25th - Christmas Day



& 2nd Sunday of Advent



Dec. 12th – 3rd Sunday of Advent



Dec. 19th – 4th Sunday of Advent



Every day...

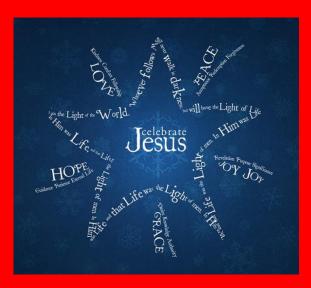




EHMC 2021 WATCHWORD

God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ dies for us. (Romans 5:8)

He left his Father's throne above – so free, so infinite his grace – emptied himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race! What mercy this, immense and free, for, O my God, it found out me! What mercy this, immense and free, for, O my God, it found out me! (773)





December

ALL DECEMBER BORN!!







^{*}Please contact the office if anyone is missing or needs to be removed. Thank you!